Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for matching an order of a homogenous good or service, comprising the steps of:

Receiving an active order including a plurality of characteristics;

Flattening the active order to derive a plurality of normalized dimensions corresponding to each of the characteristics in the active order, wherein the flattening includes mapping each of the characteristics to an axis corresponding to the characteristic and converting a value of the characteristic to a value between zero and one;

Determining the existence of a matching order among a plurality of stored passive orders corresponding to the active order based on the normalized dimensions; and

Matching the active order with the matching order [[if]] when the matching order exists and thereafter applying a rule based filter to the matching order to determine whether the matching order matches the active order based upon a rule based criteria; and

Responsive to the matching order failing to match the active order based on the rule based criteria rejecting the matching order.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A method for matching an order of a homogenous good or service, comprising the steps of:

Receiving an active order including a name value pair and characteristics;

Determining the existence of a matching order among a plurality of stored passive orders which includes an identical name value pair to that of the active order and includes normalized dimensions based on characteristics that match normalized dimensions corresponding to the received characteristics; and

Responsive to matching at least one order based on characteristics that match normalized dimensions corresponding to the received characteristics, thereafter applying Applying a rule based filter to determine whether the passive order matches the active order based upon a rule based criteria, wherein ones of the passive order matches are rejected based on a failure to meet the rule based criteria even though a match is found based on the normalized dimensions.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method for matching an order of claim 1, wherein the plurality of characteristics includes one or more selected from the group of: price; quality; quantity; and time.

Claims 6 and 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method for matching an order of claim 3, wherein the determining step includes searching a set of passive orders stored in a database.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method for matching an order of claim 1, wherein the determining step includes the step of comparing the plurality of normalized dimensions for the active order with a set of normalized dimensions for the passive orders to determine whether an intersection occurs for at least one of the axes associated with the normalized dimensions.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method for matching an order of claim 1, wherein the determining step includes a distance calculation between the plurality of

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normalized dimensions of the active order and a set of normalized dimensions for the passive orders to evaluate relatively close matches for an order.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 10, wherein the distance calculation includes an iterative process of increasing a range associated with the plurality of normalized dimensions of the active order and comparing the increased range with a set of normalized dimensions for the passive orders to determine an intersection.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method for matching an order of claim 3, wherein the name value pair includes data identifying the homogenous good or service and data relating to the value of the homogenous good or service.

Claims 14 and 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method for matching an order of claim 10, further comprising the step of notifying an entity associated with the active/passive orders of their mutual existence if the distance calculation meets a predefined criteria.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method for matching an order of claim 1, further comprising the step of aggregating a set of orders.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method for matching an order of claim 17, further comprising the step of deaggregating and resubmitting a remainder order after a match has been completed.

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